

WILLIAM THOMAS,
DICK ARMEY,
Managers on the Part of the House.

CHUCK GRASSLEY,
ORRIN HATCH,
FRANK H. MURKOWSKI,
DON NICKLES,
PHIL GRAMM,
MAX BAUCUS,
JOHN BREAUX,
Managers on the Part of the Senate.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 18 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 0651

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 6 o'clock and 51 minutes a.m.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1836, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-85) on the resolution (H. Res. 153) waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1836) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF AMENDMENT PROCESS FOR H.R. 1699, COAST GUARD AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2001

(Mr. REYNOLDS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, a "Dear Colleague" letter will be sent to all Members informing them that the Committee on Rules may grant a rule for the consideration of H.R. 1699, the Coast Guard Authorization Act of 2001. The Committee on Rules may grant a rule which would require that attachments be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD prior to their consideration on the floor.

The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure filed its report on the bill on May 24. Members should draft their amendments to the bill as

reported by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1836, ECONOMIC GROWTH AND TAX RELIEF RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2001

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 153 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 153

Resolved, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1836) to provide for reconciliation pursuant to section 104 of the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2002. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read. The yeas and nays shall be considered as ordered on the question of adoption of the conference report and on any subsequent conference report or motion to dispose of an amendment between the houses on H.R. 1836. Clause 5(b) of rule XXI shall not apply to the bill, amendments thereto, or conference reports thereon.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is, Will the House now consider House Resolution 153.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the House agreed to consider House Resolution 153.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. REYNOLDS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. REYNOLDS. Mr. Speaker, for purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the rule provides that the conference report shall be considered as read and further provides for 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Additionally, the rule waives all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration. Further, the rule provides that the yeas and nays shall be considered as ordered on the question of adoption of the conference report and on any subsequent conference report or motion to dispose of an amendment between the Houses on H.R. 1836.

Mr. Speaker, we are in the home stretch. We are in the final stages of

bringing about real tangible tax relief to all Americans. With surpluses at an all-time high, and the fiscal responsibility to match, it is time for a refund.

In testimony earlier this year before the House Committee on Ways and Means, Treasury Secretary Paul O'Neill presented the following argument: "Through hard work and ingenuity, Americans have created a booming economy that has spread prosperity around the world. Individuals have created new technologies that have made our industries more productive and have improved the standard of living for millions of Americans. We have no business continuing to collect more in Federal taxes than the cost of the services the government provides. It's not the government's money, it's the people's money, and we should return it to them as quickly as possible."

Current high rates punish low-income Americans by creating a disincentive to get ahead. We punish thrift and hard work and the innate desire in all Americans to strive to do better, to realize the American Dream. For example, under the current Tax Code a single mom making \$25,000 a year pays a higher marginal tax rate than someone making \$250,000 a year.

Taxes now claim a greater share of the median two-income family's income than food, clothing, housing, and transportation combined. And Americans are spending a greater percentage of income towards taxes than at any time since World War II, essentially comprising the largest share of the gross domestic product. In the land of equality, where is the fairness in that?

This tax package provides relief to every single taxpayer, removing millions of Americans from the tax roll all together. This plan is predicated on the idea that a sensible tax policy will generate high rates of long-term growth. Reductions in marginal tax rates, will encourage greater work ethic and provide more inducement for taxpayers to save, invest, and build business enterprises.

Families need the flexibility to dedicate their resources towards their most pressing concerns. While some may need more to help pay off their debts, others may need extra money to pay tuition for their child or to invest in their retirement. The point is, government should not be making these decisions for them.

Mr. Speaker, I have had the opportunity to speak to my colleagues and the American people on this measure twice before. While its details have most certainly changed, it includes every aspect of President Bush's tax cut proposal. Most important, its essence remains the same: needed tax relief for working Americans.

When I first stood before the House back in March, I spoke of a constituent of mine, Paul Meloon of Batavia. A husband, father, and teacher, Paul